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**THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE.** A very large paper for the country, published every Saturday morning, at the low price of \$2 per annum, in advance.

## THE TRIBUNE.

## LATER FROM EUROPE.

The steamer *COLUMBIA* arrived at Boston on Tuesday at about noon. She left Liverpool on the 14th, so that she brings dates fourteen days later.—She brings little news of any importance. The Queen has become able to ride out; the health of the Queen Dowager fluctuates from day to day, and there is no hope entertained of her recovery.

Gen. Col. George Macdonald, an officer of some merit, has been appointed Governor of Sierra Leone.

The steamship *British Queen* had been on fire at Antwerp, but it was discovered in time to prevent any serious injury to the vessel.

The steamer *Britannia*, Capt. Hewitt, hence, arrived at Liverpool on the night of the 30th ult.

The Directors and several of the subscribers to the Thames Tunnel have used it as a thoroughfare for the first time. The Wapping end of the passage was to be completed in about three weeks.

As to markets, Cotton was in moderate demand, without change in price.

In Wheat, prices for England had declined 3s. 4d. per quarter. In foreign, nothing was done. Flour in limited request; price for bonded 30 to 31s.

There was no material alleviation of the distress in the manufacturing districts; the contributions from other parts of the kingdom, though apparently liberal, being totally inadequate to meet the emergency of such a general want of productive employment. A faint hope yet seemed to linger with some of the newspapers that the crisis had passed, and that the principal causes of depression had ceased to exist, and that business would soon resume its wonted energy and life.

The 50th and 98th regiments were to proceed immediately to China, having been fully recruited. No difficulty appeared to exist in enlisting any requisite number of troops.

The accounts in the provincial journals all agree in describing the amount of rain which has lately fallen as far beyond the average of any season for many years past.

Private letters from Manchester, advertising to the failure of Gish, Wilson & Co., the cotton printers, state the amount of liabilities at £30,000. The immediate cause of the stoppage is referred to the Bank of Manchester, which stands as a creditor for £6,000.

Four men have been apprehended at Manchester, who have for some time carried on an extensive system of fraud. They were caught just as they were about starting for Liverpool, to embark for America, with the produce of the plunder.

The extensive steam cotton mills of the Messrs. Whitehead, at Rawtenstall, had been entirely consumed by fire.

Barings' Circular of the 3d has the following: "Of American Stocks we have nothing favorable to report, and can quote no prices at which there would be buyers. Holders are anxiously waiting the January dividend; and should no arrangement be made by Indiana, and any further detachments be declared, confidence in all American State Securities would, we fear, be completely destroyed. U. S. Bank shares find buyers at £1."

IRELAND.—The failure of the potato crop in Ireland appeared to be even more extensive than it was at first represented; and, coupled with the but too apparent indications of a severe winter, caused melancholy forebodings among the countless poor of that country. The spread of the temperance reform, it was hoped would go far to mitigate the evils of scarcity, and to meliorate the condition of the suffering poor; but it could hardly atone for the great falling off of a crop which in Ireland is more important than all others combined.

SCOTLAND.—The misery and destitution in Paisley, so far from suffering any diminution, continues to increase. The Glasgow Argus states that there are now 7,708 persons in that unhappy town subsisting on charity alone.

FRANCE.—A slight degree of uneasiness had prevailed in the French capital, in consequence of several workmen having struck for wages and patrolled in large bodies the outlet of the city. The troops were kept under arms in the barracks, but were not called into action.

The French government is considering the subject of a regency, in case any thing should happen to the Duke of Orleans.

The Paris papers of December 1st belonging to the opposition, unanimously contend that the present ministry is tottering, and that perhaps before the meeting of the Chambers Count Mole and M. Thiers would be in office.

A royal ordinance appeared in the *Moniteur* convokeing the Chamber of Peers and the Chamber of Deputies, for the 27th of December next.

M. Humann, the Minister of France has tendered his resignation, on account of a difference of opinion with M. Soult, the War Minister, relative to a reduction of the army. The King refused to accept the resignation, and the difficulty was got over by a compromise, M. Soult consenting to a reduction of 30,000 men from his estimates. A new circumstance has however, occurred in the quarrel; this is a pressing letter from Governor General Bugeaud, from Algiers, to the Marshal General Bugeaud, who writes that his last campaign of 50 days has so completely dislocated and dissipated the army that he could not muster 4000 men. Nine-tenths of the army of Algiers are in the hospitals! General Bugeaud says he must have at least 20,000 troops more before spring.

The Government war against the press is continued, but with indifferent success, excepting so far as regards the expense and trouble inflicted upon the parties against whom it is waged.

The Paris papers bring intelligence of the trial of M. Ledru Rollin, for "bringing the King and Government into contempt." He was condemned to three months' imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 francs. M. Haureau, Editor of the *Courrier de la Seine*, was fined at the same time 2,000 francs, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment, for printing the words of M. Ledru Rollin, who was himself acquitted of the charge of having spoken the words, although convicted of having given them to the press. Rollin, it will be remembered, is a Member of Parliament, and represents the Department of Le Mans.

The movements of the armies destined for the Pyrenees appear to be most uncertain. The 5th Regiment of Dragoons, which was preparing to march for Mont de Masion, had received counter orders, as well as the 2d battalion of the 15th Regiment, which had received orders to march for the same destination.

The commercial depression which had prevailed so long in England, had spread over the whole of Europe. In Russia it was felt very severely. Not less than two hundred and fifty failures had taken place in Moscow alone, and nearly an equal number at St. Petersburg. The Emperor is reported to have issued a peremptory ukase, to the effect that those insolvents who did not pay 40 per cent of their debts, should be compelled to join the army as common soldiers.



BY GREELEY &amp; McELRATH.

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## Dr Lardner's Second Lecture.

Second Series.

*Ladies and Gentlemen:* Truth, whether contemplated in its own pure essence and for its own sake or for the attainment of convenience and utility in the economy of life, is always an object of respect and admiration. But it is entitled to our highest reverence when viewed by itself and separated from all considerations of utility. From the moment FRANKLIN first engaged in electrical inquiries, notwithstanding the respect for truth and enthusiasm in its discovery which shine through his lifework, his views were constantly directed to the discovery of some useful purpose to which his discoveries might be applied. In one of his letters to COLLINSON, which is quoted in the Boston edition of his works, with whose Editor, Mr. JAMES SPARKS, I am proud to have formed a recent acquaintance, he expresses in a playful mood his extreme chagrin that thus far the great principles he had discovered were applied to no immediately useful purpose. One passage of this kind I will read to you, in which he describes a projected party of pleasure to the banks of the Schuylkill; the hot season approached, when electrical experiments were extremely unpleasant: "Spirits," says he, "are to be fired by a spark sent from one side of the river to the other through the water; we shall eat upon electrified plates, a turkey killed by an electric shock and roasted by the electrical jacks by a fire kindled by the electric spark; and we shall drink the healths of all the electricians of Europe, in electrified wine, from electrified glasses, under the discharge of guns from the electrical battery." Such was the character of the man and of his mind, always bent upon making his singular discoveries useful to his fellow-men; and he never could be quiet—he never could be perfectly happy until he had made these phenomena contribute to the comfort or the pleasure of those around him.

In the latter part of 1749, after bestowing much care upon the analogies on which his opinions were founded, he addressed a letter to COLLINSON in which he maintained—and not merely conjectured, as has been asserted—that lightning and electricity were one and the same. In proving this, for an original, uneducated man—one whose mind had not been taught in the logic of the schools which renders the reasoning powers so acute, he proceeded with astonishing logical rigor. He said that the only way in which two physical powers admit of comparison is by their effects. Now lightning and electricity agree in nearly all their general relations; electricity when it passes through the body of an animal in sufficient quantity, destroys its life or renders it blind, so does lightning; electricity fuses metals, so does lightning; it reverses the polarity of the needle and so does lightning; it fires combustible materials and so does lightning; electricity, in fine, passes off by preference upon points of metal, while lightning was known usually to strike mountains, and high trees or spires. In short he went through a whole catalogue of ten or twelve remarkable properties and showed that electricity and lightning were identical in them all. He said that no doubt remained that the principles were the same and, being so, he saw no reason why we might not learn to deal with this fiery meteor from the manner in which we manage electricity. This assertion he threw out in a letter to COLLINSON, but he did not stop here, and the manner in which he proceeded to carry out the various modes of rendering the electric properties useful, are exceedingly interesting and instructive.

It was before known that electricity was attracted by points, as the discovery had been made by Franklin. Now said Franklin if the cloud which is charged with lightning be considered as charged with electricity, I see no reason why we may not erect a pointed body so as to draw the fluid from the cloud. This he proceeded to establish by direct experiment, not with a real, but a fictitious cloud. He took a pair of metal scale and suspended them by silk cords. Now then, said he, if the scales be electrified the fluid cannot escape and they may represent a cloud charged with lightning. He then laid upon the table a metal punch which was to represent the building—placed in such a position that the scales might pass directly above it. Now, said he, the same phenomena should be exhibited as in the case of an electric cloud. He passed the scales over the punch and as it passed it slightly descended until within "striking distance," when a spark passed between them, and the scales rose and passed on. Here he had an image of an electric cloud passing over a building and discharging its lightning. Franklin then varied his experiment so as to illustrate the manner in which he proposed to render his discoveries serviceable to man. He took a pointed needle instead of the blunt punch he had before used, and placed it so that the scale might pass over its point. This done the scale was passed above it, when the scale instead of discharging its electricity, passed on its way, the fluid being taken off by the pointed needle. Thus, said the philosopher, why may we not place metallic points upon the tops of buildings? and so he went on to his great discoveries in the manner so familiar to you all, and which therefore it is needless to repeat. He described an ordinary lightning rod, and went so far as to say that their points should be gilt to prevent their oxidation—a remark which was a natural enough in a man of science, but which at that time, and from such a man, evinced a most wonderful sagacity.

This occurred in 1750 and Franklin immediately issued a letter which was circulated in England, France and all over Europe, in which he described the method of drawing electricity from the clouds. He directed that a sentry box be placed upon a high elevation and that from this a pointed rod should ascend into the air. This point would attract the fluid and a person in the sentry-box could easily perceive its presence by the usual tests, or charge a phial and produce a shock. These were his directions and the account containing them was read before the Royal Society of London and it is said to have been received with peals of laughter as the dream of a visionary enthusiast. The matter thus remained until Aug. 1752. Franklin had an idea that it was necessary to raise the rod to a great elevation and waited a long time for the completion of a high spire at Philadelphia. But the notion occurred to him after issuing his directions to the philosophers of Europe, of trying his experiment in the manner with which you are all acquainted—by sending into the air a kite armed with a metallic point. He determined upon this course, and in the early part of June 1752 tried his experiment upon the common at Philadelphia, the details of which I need not recount as you are all of you familiar with them.

This, then, was the course which Franklin took to prove the identity of lightning and electricity,

and it is not until recently that his claim to the discovery has been disputed. But in 1831, M. ARAGO, the Astronomer Royal of France, whom I have so often mentioned, and whose acquaintance I have the honor of enjoying, published a beautiful *Memoir or Eloge* of the great electrician VOLTA. In this *Eloge* he took occasion to refer to the circumstances of the discovery imputed to Franklin. Franklin's experiment to ascertain the identity of lightning and electricity he said was useless, for it was sufficiently established by the flames which appeared on the spears of the Roman soldiers of the Fifth Legion mentioned by Cæsar. The experiment, therefore, he said, was not called for since it gave no knowledge not already possessed. Franklin's suggestion of its identity, moreover, he said, was a mere conjecture, and such as it was, he had been anticipated in it by the Abbe NOLLET, who had made the same suggestion in a work published in 1749. Thus, in the view of ARAGO, Franklin was not only deprived of the merit of the experiment but of the discovery itself. This passage in the *Eloge* caught my attention while I was in Philadelphia, and I then saw the original work which Franklin used and which contained his manuscript notes. I sifted the whole question and here are the results. The work of the Abbe NOLLET containing this suggestion was published at Paris in December, 1749. The hint was a mere conjecture affording none of those analogies by which Franklin tested and established the identity of electricity and lightning. But suppose NOLLET's declaration had been explicit and his reasons conclusive: it is scarcely possible that a scientific work, published at Paris in Dec. 1749 should have reached Philadelphia so soon as the date of Franklin's letter to COLLINSON which first announced his discovery.

Let us now see how stands the Experiment. ARAGO maintains that the credit of this is due to Franklin but to a French electrician named DALLIARD, who, ARAGO says, made the experiment at Marysville, near Paris, about a month before Franklin had gone through with his. This is all true so far as the mere fact of the experiment's having been tried at that time is concerned; but let us see the circumstances under which M. DALLIARD's experiment was made. In 1750 Franklin issues a letter in which he requests the attention of electricians to the identity of lightning and the electric fluid. He describes the apparatus by which the question may be settled: directs the erection of a sentry-box and metallic rod, and details minutely the whole process by which the experiment may be made. This letter goes to the Royal Society of London, is printed, translated into French, goes to Paris and has a general circulation all over Europe. 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